

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

MICHAEL WHITFIELD,

Petitioner,

v.

NETHANJAH BRUTENBACH,

Respondents.

Case No. 3:23-cv-00305-ART-CLB

ORDER

Following the Notice of Appearance (ECF No. 18) by the Federal Public Defender on behalf of Petitioner Michael Whitfield, it is hereby ordered:

1. The Federal Public Defender, through Ron Y. Sung, Esq., is appointed as counsel for Petitioner pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2)(B). Counsel will represent Petitioner in all federal proceedings related to this matter, including any appeals or certiorari proceedings, unless allowed to withdraw.
2. Petitioner will have 90 days from entry of this order to file an amended petition and/or seek other appropriate relief. This deadline and any extension thereof may not be construed as implied findings regarding the federal limitation period or a basis for tolling. Petitioner at all times remains responsible for calculating the running of the federal limitation period and timely asserting claims, without regard to any court-ordered deadlines or extensions. Thus, a petition or amended petition filed within a court-ordered deadline may still be dismissed as untimely if it violates the statute of limitations. *See Sossa v. Diaz*, 729 F.3d 1225, 1235 (9th Cir. 2013).
3. Respondents must file a response to the amended petition, including potentially by motion to dismiss, within 60 days of service of an

1 amended petition. Petitioner may file a reply within 30 days of service
2 of the answer. However, Local Rule LR 7-2(b) governs the response and
3 reply time to any motion filed by either party, including motions filed in
4 lieu of a pleading.

5 4. Any procedural defenses Respondents raise to the counseled amended
6 petition must be raised together in a single, consolidated motion to
7 dismiss. Successive motions to dismiss will not be entertained, and any
8 procedural defenses omitted from the consolidated motion to dismiss
9 will be waived. Respondents may not file a response that consolidates
10 their procedural defenses, if any, with their response on the merits. But
11 arguments that an unexhausted claim clearly lacks merit may be
12 included a procedural-defense response. If Respondents seek dismissal
13 of unexhausted claims under 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(2) they must: (1) do
14 so in a single motion to dismiss, not in the answer; and (2) specifically
15 direct their argument to the standard for dismissal under § 2254(b)(2)
16 as set forth in *Cassett v. Stewart*, 406 F.3d 614, 623–24 (9th Cir. 2005).
17 In short, no procedural defenses, including exhaustion, may be included
18 with the merits in an answer. All procedural defenses, including
19 exhaustion, must be raised in a single motion to dismiss.

20 5. In any answer filed on the merits, Respondents must specifically cite to
21 and address the applicable state court written decision and state court
22 record materials, if any, regarding each claim within the response as to
23 that claim.

24 6. Respondents must file the state court exhibits relevant to their response
25 in chronological order.

26 7. All state court records and related exhibits must be filed in accordance
27 with LR IA 10-3 and LR IC 2-2 and include a separate index identifying
28 each exhibit by number or letter. The index must be filed in CM/ECF's

document upload screen as the base document to receive the base docket number (*e.g.*, ECF No. 10). Each exhibit must then be filed as “attachments” to the base document to receive a sequenced sub-docket number (*e.g.*, Exhibit A (ECF No. 10-1), Exhibit B (ECF No. 10-2), Exhibit C (ECF No. 10-3), and so forth). If the exhibits will span more than one filing, the base document in each successive filing must be either a copy of the index or volume cover page. *See* LR IC 2-2(a)(3)(A).

8. Notwithstanding LR IC 2-2(g), paper copies of any electronically filed exhibits need not be provided to chambers or to the staff attorney, unless later directed by the court.

DATED THIS 4th day of November, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne R. Traum", is written over a horizontal line.

ANNE R. TRAUM
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE